Complaints of poaching

621. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints of poaching have been received by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Incidences of poaching have come to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Protection of wildlife and management of Protected Areas are primarily the responsibilities of the concerned State Governments. The Ministry under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes provides necessary financial and technical assistance to the State Governments for wildlife conservation, control of poaching and management of protected areas. Under these Schemes financial assistance is provided for infrastructure development, improved communication systems, purchase of fire arms, construction of watch towers and check posts, establishing anti-poaching camps, etc.

(d) Does not arise.

Vulture breeding

622. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT ADN FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have decided to stop the use of drugs which have been a cause for disappearance of vultures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some States have taken steps in the direction of vulture breeding; and